



BRFSS

Cigarette Smoking

Fact Sheet

Chronic Disease Epidemiology Unit

Buddy R. Bates

504-568-7016



Healthy people 2000 goal: reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking to 15% or less among people aged 20 or older; NOT ACHIEVED [Fig 1].

Healthy people 2010 goal: reduce cigarette smoking prevalence to no more than 12% among people aged 18 and older.

The percentage of smokers is at its peak among 18-24 year olds: almost 30% in 2000 and 29% among 25-44 year olds.

Twenty-six percent of whites and 20% of African Americans were smokers in 2000 [Fig. 2].

Twenty-seven percent of males and 22% of females were smokers in 2000 [Fig. 3].

Twenty-nine percent of people with less than high school education were smokers in 2000, vs. only 14% of those with college education.

African Americans in Louisiana were more likely to never start smoking than whites (69% vs. 51% respectively) [2000 data].

Females were more likely than males to never start smoking (62% vs. 50% respectively) [2000 data].

All data from the Louisiana Behavioral Factor Surveillance System: 1991-2000 Chronic Disease Report
[<http://oph.dhh.state.la.us/chronicdisease/behavioralrisk>]

Current smoker: a respondent who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in his/her lifetime, and now smokes every day or some days

Former smoker: a respondent who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in his/her lifetime, but does not currently smoke

Never smoker: a respondent who has not smoked at least 100 cigarettes in his/her lifetime

